

The Evening World

ESTABLISHED BY JOSEPH PULITZER.
Published Daily Except Sunday by The Evening World Publishing Company, Inc., 12 to 15 Park Row, New York.
RALPH PULITZER, President, 63 Park Row.
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THE HILAN IDEA OF "SAVING."

THE City of New York is the biggest corporate business organization in the United States. At the head of the corporation is the Mayor. The Mayor is responsible for the general business policy of the city.

The delay in awarding the contracts for completion of the 14th Street-Eastern District Subway is an illuminating example of the competence of the Mayor and his fellow directors in the Board of Estimate.

In his speech in Brooklyn Thursday evening, the Mayor made a great point of the \$36,000 that had been saved by readvertisement of some of the contracts submitted by the Transit Commission. He did not mention the \$2,000 a day interest charge on the city's investment.

At \$2,000 a day a saving of \$36,000 would warrant a delay of eighteen days. This does not take into consideration the convenience to patrons resulting from early service on the line. The Mayor and his board have delayed about a year, the consequent loss in interest amounting to about twenty times the saving the Mayor boasts.

How long would any private business corporation tolerate such mismanagement, such disregard for the cost of delay and indecision?

The Transit Commission estimates that it would delay work sixty days, or \$120,000 in interest charges, to readvertise contracts and make a \$30,000 reduction in costs. With regard to business practice and common sense, the commission refuses to make such a foolish move.

How long can New York afford to "save" \$30,000 at an expense of \$120,000? Could it afford to "save" \$36,000 at a cost of \$700,000?

Is it evidence of contempt or of kindness that the Civic Virtue "fellow" is facing away from City Hall and the office of the individual who "didn't like his looks"?

MAKE WILLS CONTEST-PROOF.

THE contest of the will of the late Supreme Court Justice Henry D. Hotchkiss is another example which reinforces The Evening World's suggestion of an agency to certify as to the mental capacity of testators.

Justice Hotchkiss signed his will on Feb. 17. On that day he sat in the Supreme Court and performed his usual duties.

The contestants question the competence of the will, and allege fraud and undue influence. Whatever the result of the effort to break the will, the consequence will be a shrinkage of the estate through the payment of legal fees and lawyers' bills.

Testators who anticipate dissatisfaction with the wills they draw ought to be able to go before a commission for examination. If the commission certifies to the accuracy of the "I, being of sound mind," clause of the will, it should stand in the courts as contest-proof.

Early in the week Savannah, Ga., adopted a new kind of Prohibition. Jazz is on the "must not" list.

"Savannah Blues" ought to be a timely title for a topical jazz tune.

WEAK SPOTS IN THE B. R. T.'S CASE.

THAT B. R. T. suit for \$30,000,000 damages for non-performance of contract by the city ought not to be serious for the city if the defense is competently presented.

If the city fails to do justice to its side of the case, the Transit Commission, which is technically a defendant, ought to intervene and bring out the whole situation.

The B. R. T. statement of the case may be entirely correct. The city has been guilty of obstruction. The contract hasn't been performed for the benefit of the B. R. T.

But the B. R. T. cannot come into court with clean hands. It, too, had an obligation which was defaulted, the duty of providing adequate service under its franchise and under the contracts out of which the present suit grows.

Those obligations have not been performed, as the Transit Commission has shown in recent hearings. Every patron of the B. R. T. knows this by personal experience.

Again, the strength of the B. R. T. case is sapped by the long delay in bringing the suit. The theory of the Statute of Limitations should bar any such recovery.

For years the B. R. T. has been pleading poverty as an excuse for inadequate service. If it had a valid case for damage, why did it not sue

long ago, collect the money and apply it to the expenses of giving adequate service?

PROHIBITION AND THE POLICE.

THE number of policemen tried on charges of intoxication has markedly increased under Prohibition, according to statistics given out from Police Headquarters.

In 1918, fifteen policemen were charged with drunkenness and the same number in 1919. In 1920, twenty-four were tried for this offense and in 1921, thirty-one.

There is nothing surprising in this. Under Prohibition law the police have been subjected to extra temptation in the shape of "evidence" collected in raids and arrests. It is notorious that considerable quantities of such evidence mysteriously disappear. Also in many cases the daily routine of the policeman brings him close to unlawful sources of liquor supply.

Is it astonishing that the policeman sometimes takes lightly a law which he knows respected and otherwise law-abiding members of the community are constantly breaking?

Is it to be wondered at that drunkenness increases among policemen when drunkenness is also increasing in many homes where moderation and self-restraint were formerly the rule?

Thanks to a law which tries to impose temperance by tyranny and which turns a particular kind of law-breaking into a favorite indoor sport: Men drink to-day who never drank before, And men who drank before now drink the more.

We can't expect the police to be immune.

STEEL-SHAFTED GOLF CLUBS.

THE body that establishes the rules for golf tournaments has been conducting tests preparatory to deciding whether steel-shafted clubs may be used in tournament play.

The steel-shafted club has been introduced because the supply of second growth hickory is running short and club shafts are becoming more expensive.

So the rule makers have been supervising play by experts to discover whether the steel shaft may give an advantage to players. If so it will be barred.

Whatever the decision may be will not matter much twenty or fifty years from now. If the hickory supply runs low and the steel shaft is an acceptable substitute, the 90 per cent. or more of players who never enter big tournament play will turn to the steel-shafted clubs whenever the hickory shafts become too expensive.

When, and if, the steel shaft comes into common use, the rules will be changed to suit the players.

Golf is a conservative sport. It has been aristocratic. But in recent years it has experienced the democratic urge.

PUT THEM TOGETHER.

"The much misrepresented and despised League of Nations, which after all is only half a league, is, thank God, half a league onward. Change its name, call it a different name every week if you like, but for God's sake, give it a chance."—Lady Astor, at the Town Hall, Wednesday night.

"After all, central governments only echo local ones; the politician in Washington, if he is a wise man, will always have one eye on his constituency, making that constituency so clean, so straight, so high in its purpose, that the man from home will not dare to take a small, limited view about any question, be it a national or an international one."—Lady Astor at the dinner of the English-Speaking Union, Thursday night.

Ponder them separately and then put them together. They combine into excellent food for American thought.

It would be a godsend if civic virtue always commanded as much public attention as "Civic Virtue" did while it was being lifted into position.

ACHES AND PAINS A Disjointed Column by John Keetz.

According to the Christian Advocate, churches burn up in the United States at the rate of five edifices per day. Methodist houses lead in the holocaust. Sparks from the pulpit, perhaps.

A critic says that Civic Virtue is too big to fit in City Hall Park. It always was.

France's army may be four times as large as that of the U. S. A., but it is much cheaper. Costs \$124,000,000 to our \$325,000,000. So Stephen Lanzanne testifies in the current North American Review.

Under the refining influence of the Parkway Commission the Bronx River is once more a clear, sparkling stream. People are going to be surprised when the new roadway is completed and it becomes possible to flitter along the rivulet to Kenosia.

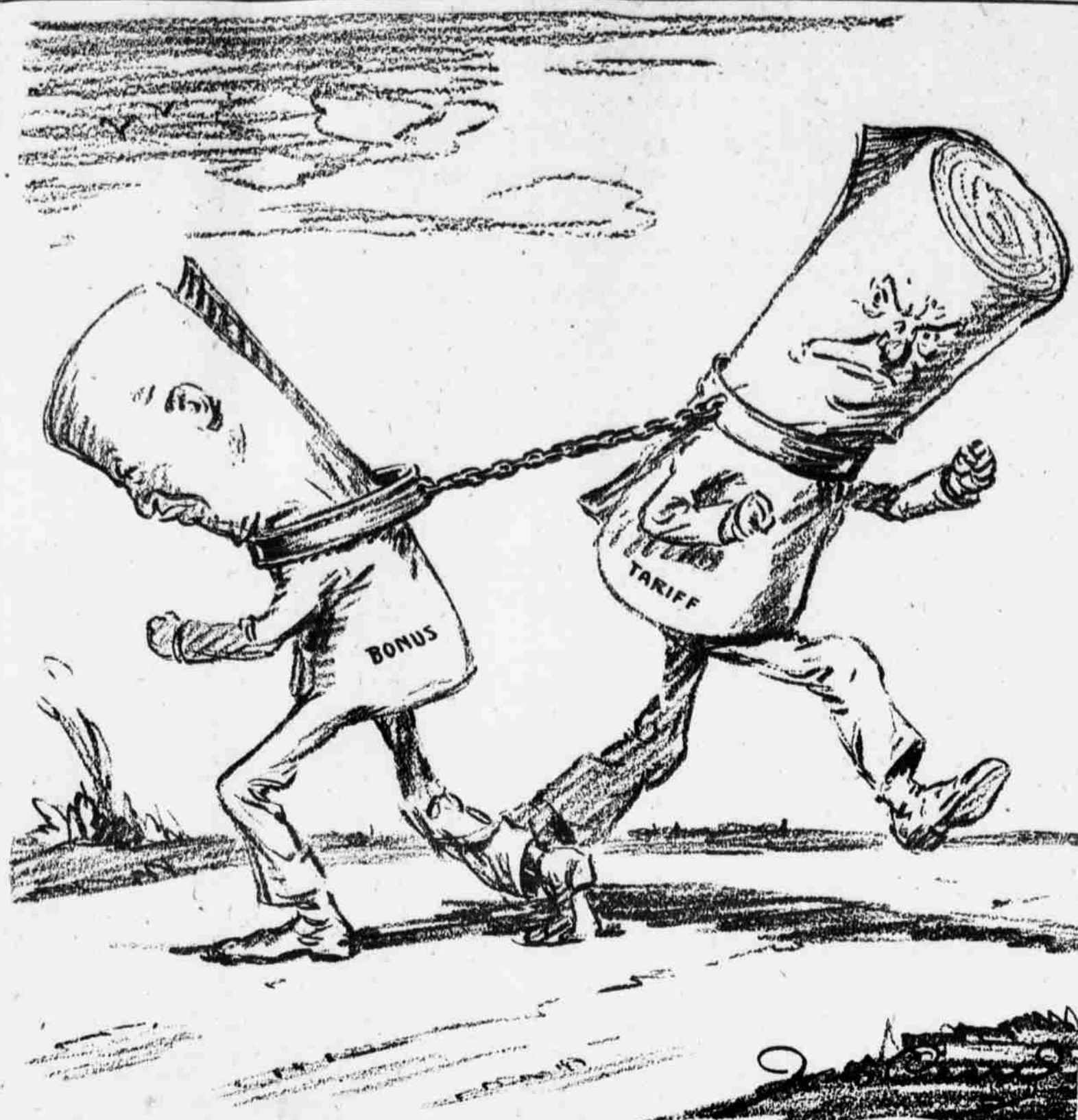
Dave is busy changing Hiszoner's pet name from "Red Mike" to "Honest John." What Gov. Miller will do to it is still darkly undeveloped.

An English autograph seller quotes a note from Whittier to an eminent author, in which he says he "values her sympathy and friendship." First words of the kind on record from the warship James. The name of the amiable lady is not given.

Linked Together!

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By John Cassel



From Evening World Readers

What kind of letter do you find most readable? Isn't it the one that gives the worth of a thousand words in a couple of hundred? There is fine mental exercise and a lot of satisfaction in trying to say much in few words. Take time to be brief.

Too Much Sarcasm.

To the Editor of The Evening World:
It seems to me that too much sarcasm on the subject of our pathetic city government will fatigue your readers. I for one find the theme rather overdone. There are few people who think but find the news sections of your paper contain enough to make us unhappy without the overdone on the editorial page. Talk in principles if you will but stop the personalities. Contempt is better expressed by silence than by notice. To persist in making the incompetent incumbents of our municipal offices martyrs instead of the laughing stock of the people.

Persistent attacks of the kind in which you indulge give the Mayor and his satellites material to use by way of asserting that you have personal gain to profit or an axe to grind. Use the editorial page for constructive ideas instead of destructive abuse. Leave the poor contemptibles to hang themselves.

ALBERTO STEPHEN MARZO.
New York, April 17, 1922.

Safety In Homicide.

To the Editor of The Evening World:
I had always looked at the "Italian vendetta" as a terrible and hateful weapon of vengeance of the underworld. Until I came to America, where any woman can kill any one she chooses and get away with it.

Look at all the most recent murders committed by women. They killed their lovers like dogs after, they couldn't hold them any longer, and all of them were acquitted. Just suppose they happened to be men instead of being women, they all would have known the electric chair by now. Under these circumstances the "vendetta" does not seem so horrible.

JUSTICE.
New York, April 15, 1922.

Shot In by the Swiss Navy.

To the Editor of The Evening World:
To settle an argument, kindly inform me how the holes are made in Swiss cheese.

F. H.

More Ecotopism.

To the Editor of The Evening World:
The flapper-like attitude toward officials is deplorable. Look at our Mayor. Good as he is by self-determination, he is denied. Use the Hudson there is one always ready to pounce. How long shall we be subjected? Have we not resources within ourselves? Our city is safe. If there is crime, a citizen has the temerity to think of business, forgetting his dozen daily don'ts.

Banditry is an expression of youth. Shall youth be suppressed?

Unthinking persons accuse an official of "feathering his nest." Only one bird is known to pluck feathers from its breast for that purpose. Surely there is none among us of that species.

Greater dignity should be maintained, more deference shown. In Africa the coming of a village chief is announced by beating tom-toms. The wise kneel; others take to the jungle. While it is not desirable to emulate our African friends, our own deserve consideration. There is too much jazz in everyday life. We need more ecotopism.

R. H. MOLONEY.
Brooklyn, April 17, 1922.

Try Temperance.

To the Editor of The Evening World:

To Helen Wells I will say: I do not believe that it is covering sin or leading any one into temptation to counsel temperance and self control of the appetite for drink.

Prohibitionists are tempting ministers of the Gospel and others to accept positions that will increase their incomes, giving them work to do that may lead to murder, theft and graft.

How much better it would be for these ministers to devote their time, talent and energy looking after the underprivileged children in their community and keeping them from being criminals. The character of children is determined at an early age. Help to make them good citizens, for they will be voters in the future.

The quotations that Helen Wells gives from the Apostle Paul's Epistles to the Ephesians and the Thessalonians advise only against excess and drunkenness. This Apostle did not preach Prohibition, as in his Epistle to Timothy he wrote: "Drink no longer water, but use a little wine for thy stomach's sake and thine often infirmities."

TRUTH.

Temperance in All Things.

To the Editor of The Evening World:

In this column of April 13 issue, a question is asked of H. Wells. I am not H. Wells. Nor am I a Protestant, Jew or Catholic. I did not read H. Wells's letter, but she could prove by some religious creeds that total abstinence is right and it is right to me, and to all who from choice, for example, or other reason deter from the use of intoxicants.

However, our friend, "Agnostic," no doubt like the proverbial Irishman, should be taken as he meant and not as he said. The Bible teaches temperance in all things—eating, drinking and every propensity of the human body—excess in nothing. Total abstinence to the believer in many things from choice or as a free-will service.

"Use a little wine for thy stomach's sake," did not mean that Timothy was to get drunk. Neither would the Lord's Supper be scripturally commemorated if any substitute was used for the fruit of the vine, the type of the Blood sacrificed for the human race.

Human laws are good for the lawless! But those need no laws who adhere to the teaching of the Great Law Giver!

A BELIEVER.

New York, April 17, 1922.

UNCOMMON SENSE

By John Blake

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PUT YOUR MIND IN ORDER.

An orderly mind produces orderly work, and orderly work means rapid production. Everybody is paid on a production basis. Production must be either of high quality or of great quantity to yield returns.

You can tell the instant you look at most men on their jobs whether their minds are orderly or disorderly. You can tell just as quick by looking at their pay checks.

The orderly man has his day's work planned before he begins it, and takes each item up separately.

The disorderly man begins anywhere and turns from one thing to another without any relation to their proper sequence or the value of getting some things before others.

If he is what is called a "jack-leg" carpenter, his window frames and doors won't fit his house when he gets it done. He will saw lumber short because he is too lazy to look at the plans, and try to make up for it by piecing it out afterward.

Doubtless you have seen dozens of such among job carpenters, who are usually out of employment and never make more than a hand-to-mouth existence.

There are disorderly minds in all trades and in all professions, but they almost always belong to incompetent and unprosperous people.

Sometimes a great genius succeeds in spite of a disorderly mind, but he would succeed far more greatly and get more happiness out of his success if he took the trouble to put his mind in order.

You can no more fight life's battles with a disorderly mind than a General could win a battle in a war with a disorderly army.

It is not the hard muscles on your biceps nor your lofty and distinguished brow that is going to put you ahead of the men who started with you.

It is what is on the inside of your head. And that has got to be orderly, so you can get at it quickly and with the least effort, or it will be very little good to you, no matter how fine may be the quality of the brain.

"That's a Fact"

By Albert P. Southwick

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"Deacon off," which meant to give the cue, was a phrase derived from a custom once universal but now extinct in the New England Congregational Churches. An important part of the office of a deacon was to read the hymns indicated by the minister, one line at a time, the congregation singing each line as soon as read.

"Ten-cent Jimmy" was the unpleasant nickname conferred upon James Buchanan before he became President. It was affirmed by John Davis (1787-1854) in a speech that Buchanan was in favor of reducing the wages of American workmen to ten cents a day.

Cocoa is generally purer than chocolate.

MONEY TALKS

By HERBERT BENINGTON.

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WHISTLES.

Benjamin Franklin wrote that he first learned economy when he discovered that he had paid too much for a whistle.

Robert Louis Stevenson commented on this by saying that what annoyed him was not that he sometimes paid too much for a whistle, but that he often found himself the purchaser of a whistle he did not want at all.

"To pay too much for an article is extravagance, but to buy an article which one does not really want is rank foolishness."

TURNING THE PAGES

By C. M. Osborn
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THERE is a secret garden in my heart
No other eyes may see,
So closely veiled it is, so sternly kept
I violate for me.

All day I walk the dusty ways of men
Beyond those hidden walls,
But when the tumult of the world is hushed
And brooding twilight falls,

I slip unchallenged through the shadowed arch
And you are waiting there,
With fragrance of the wild rose on your lip
And starlight in your hair.

Three stanzas of "Sanctuary," a poem from the book "Dreams and a Sword" (Yale University Press), by Medora C. Addison, added to "The Yale Series of Younger Poets."

Human Nature and the Hangdog...

A brief bit of wisdom from "Human Nature and Conduct" (Holt), the latest book by Prof. John Dewey.

"Give a dog a bad name and hang him." Human nature has been the dog of professional moralists, and consequences accord with the proverb.

Man's nature has been regarded with suspicion, with fear, with awe.

It has appeared to be so evilly disposed that the business of morality was to prune and curb it.

But morals based on study of human nature in mass of upon those regard for it would find the facts of man continuous with those of the rest of nature and would thereby ally ethics with physics and biology.

Prof. Dewey, it is painfully evident, would not hang the dog even by so majestic a noose as the Eighteenth Amendment.

Blind Men and Big Trees...

On a page of his book, "The Open Spaces" (Scribners) John C. Van Dyke writes:

After a week a sense of the bigness of the redwoods begins to dawn upon one. And their arrow majesty and mighty lift are more comprehensible. How straight and strong and splendid they are!

People, with a genius for seeing the infinitely little, camp under these great trees, and in the morning perhaps are amused by the antics of the Douglas squirrel (a Western red squirrel) chasing himself around the thirty-foot trunk; but they do not see the trees.

They gaze beyond the three-hundred-foot top into the sky, watching the wheel of a hawk or a vulture, but they do not see the sky.

The story goes of some dulleard presented to a great queen at one of her receptions and the only thing he saw about her Majesty was the wart on her nose.

But how can one miss the majesty of those mighty trees! They belong with the Grand Canyon and Kanachanganga—among the sublime wonders of the world.

The thought forces itself upon us that it is Mr. Van Dyke's people that see neither big tree nor sky who have the casting votes at many an election of people's Mayors and such things.

Kansas As It Is Not Sung...

After reciting in The Nation the story of Puritanism and its successful crusades in Kansas, William Allen White continues:

What we lack most keenly is a sense of beauty and the love of it. Nothing is more gorgeous in color and form than Kansas sunset; yet it is hidden from us.

The Kansas prairies are as mysterious and moody as the sea in the inviolable yet we come there and plow them and mark them with roads and do not see them.

The wind in the cottonwoods flaps songs as full as the song of a bird. The meadow lark, the red bird, the quail live with us and pipe to us all through the year, but our musicians have not returned the song.

The wide skies at night present the age-old mystery of life. In splendor and baffling magnificence, yet only one Kansas poet, Eugene Ware, has ever worn Arcurus as a boomer pin.

Surely the righteousness which exalts a nation does not also blind its eyes and cramp its hands and make it dumb that beauty may slip past unthought.

Surely all joy, all happiness, all permanent delight that restores the soul of man, does not come from the wine, the meat and song, which Kansas frowns upon.

Does Mr. White hesitate to confess how joy and poetry can be weighted out of the heart by too much iron in the law?

Oh! These Mothers!...

Mother has grieved for a day because news of Tom's preference has come to her from other word than his own. But at night there is a loud summons from without and things happen thus:

She groped through the dark and turned the key: fang open the door anxiously. A tall stranger rushed at her, caught her in his arms and cried:

"Mother! Mother!"

Before she could speak she knew that this strange violent person was one of the Associate Justices of the Supreme Court of the United States. He told her so himself and added:

"As soon as I knew it for sure I jumped on the first train to bring you the news myself. I hope you haven't heard it. Have you?"

For all her bank of joy she remembered to be this overgrown child's mother, and to say what he so wanted to hear: "No, I never dreamed of it. I can believe it!"

And her frowzy husband grinning like an overgrown lout, for once had tact enough to perjure himself as a gentleman and gasp: "Supreme Court! Associate Justice! The President appointed you! Mother, did you hear that?"

A little mother story, this, from "The Old Nest" (Harpers), Rupert Hughes's story of how Tom grows up and away from Carthage.